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The Akron Architectural Group

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AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Community Planning Meeting #1
Ritzman Community Learning Center
Tuesday, March 15, 2005 @ 6:00 p.m.

In Attendance

D. James.....	Akron Public Schools
J. Beal.....	Akron Public Schools
G. Taylor	Akron Public Schools
K. Balchak	Akron Public Schools
J. Kaufman.....	Akron Public Schools
C. Minrovic.....	Akron Public Schools
L. Schur	Akron Public Schools
H. Mardin.....	Akron Public Schools
S. Otto	Akron Public Schools
K. Olson.....	Akron Public Schools
M. Brannen.....	Akron Public Schools
G. Yorgey	Akron Public Schools
L. Francis	Akron Public Schools
J. Birath	AAG
R. Chordar.....	AAG
C. Iwanski	AAG
T. Albanese	City of Akron Councilperson
L. Duncan	City of Akron
J. Mullins.....	CTP
J. Mullins.....	CTP
C. Uber.....	CTP
M. Uber	CTP
M. Keeling	CTP
M. Keeling	CTP
C. Rorar.....	CTP
L. Boddie.....	CTP
K. Olson.....	CTP
M. Limberg	CTP
B. Tucker	CTP
C. Tucker	CTP
J. Carey	CTP
E. Testa.....	CTP
J. Chambliss.....	CTP
D. King.....	CTP
K. Pleii	CTP
J. Phillips.....	CTP

M. Mane	CTP
D. Mihalovich.....	CTP
J. Buckeye.....	CTP
E. Haverstick.....	CTP
S. Six.....	CTP
M. Wytosick.....	CTP
W. Kartler	CTP
R. Kartler	CTP
N. Clementi.....	CTP
P. McCoy.....	CTP
J. Messenger	CTP
C. Marinos	CTP
T. White	CTP
M. White	CTP
T. Frank.....	CTP
A. Petras	CTP
C. McLeod	CTP
S. Liettle.....	CTP
J. Liettle.....	CTP
E. Wagner.....	CTP
P. Green	CTP
D. Garlick.....	CTP
A. Fassnacht	CTP
B. Brittain.....	CTP
J. Dockery	CTP
M. Sinel.....	CTP
A. Strickler.....	CTP
D. Johnson	CTP
F. Williams	CTP

Distribution

AAG Project Managers

M. Salopek	AAG
D. Mitchell	AAG
D. James.....	Akron Public Schools
J. Beal.....	Akron Public Schools
K. Balchak	Akron Public Schools
R. Jones Blum.....	Akron Public Schools
L. Duncan	City of Akron
T. Long.....	City of Akron
M. Williamson.....	City of Akron
D. Krutz.....	RKPS
L. Jennings.....	Burges and Burges

The purpose of the meeting is to introduce the project, the team and the process to the community and staff at Ritzman. The following is a review of items discussed at the meeting:

- D. James introduced the team members from Akron Public Schools (APS), City of Akron, and Akron Architectural Group (AAG) that would be assisting the community and staff with the process.
- D. James emphasized the importance of the Community Planning Team's input during the design and planning process. He emphasized that everyone must be committed to this process for its duration in order to ensure a successful Community Learning Center that meets

the specific needs of the community. He then reviewed the agenda and a video was presented that reviewed the events that took place to allow APS to embark on the building endeavor and what the Community Learning Centers can be.

- D. James then reviewed the ground rules to allow a complete presentation and when questions will be received and addressed. He noted that there are members of the community who are concerned about the interim period during construction of the new building and where the children will be temporarily relocated. He will address these issues at the end of the presentation.
- L. Duncan reviewed the concept of a Community Learning Center and the passing of Issue 10 that permitted an increase in City Income Tax to pay the district's share of the building program. She noted that Issue 10 was unique to Ohio and the cooperative agreement formed between the City of Akron and APS as a result of this is also unique. She stressed that one of the priorities of the team is to provide a safe and secure learning environment for instructors and students.
- L. Duncan noted that the building would be available after school hours and on the weekends for a variety of community uses and that the community would play a very important role in identifying program requirements for their new center.
- J. Beal discussed the master plan, particularly with regards to the various stages and the timeline. He noted that the time it will take until the building is open would be between twenty-eight and thirty-seven months. He explained the Ohio School Facility Commission (OSFC) facility evaluation process and the parallel evaluation process that APS and the AAG performed. It was important to note that the team should stay consistent throughout the remaining phases of the project and not just the initial Program of Requirements (POR) phase. He explained the OSFC Design Manual and how items not identified in the manual would be paid for through the Locally Funded Initiative (LFI).
- J. Birath reviewed the size for the new school: 400 student enrollment, 54,890 square feet on two stories. He then presented the OSFC POR and how the OSFC determined the parameters through conducting studies that resulted in creating a standards based model, classroom standards, spaces in each school, and site standards. These standards create an efficient design for the building, flexibility for community use, team teaching, and a technology infrastructure.
- J. Birath indicated that the new Center will consist of three Kindergarten Classrooms, three Special Education Classrooms, fifteen Classrooms, an Art Room, a Music Room, a Media Center, a Gymnasium, a Student Dining Room with an elevated Stage, and support spaces. APS has noted that the teacher to student ratio for grades K-2 are to be 1:18 and for grades 3-5 are to be 1:22.
- J. Birath reviewed the site standards noting that there will be a new playground, separate parent drop-off/pick-up, staff and visitor parking areas, mixture of hard and soft play surfaces, and an identifiable front entry. The original building designed in the early part of the 20th century did not have the issues of vehicular access to address and has resulted into the current issues of parking and access.
- J. Birath reviewed the OSFC Elementary Classroom Standards noting that all Kindergarten Rooms will be 1,080 square feet and Classrooms will be 900 square feet. The existing Kindergarten Classrooms are approximately 840 square feet and the existing First Grade Classrooms are approximately 830 square feet. A typical Classroom will include sixteen feet of marker board, sixteen feet of tack board, heating and air-conditioning, an instructor wardrobe, twelve feet of work counter with base and overhead lockable cabinets, a sink with

a drinking fountain, computer workstations, student desks/tables and chairs, reading tables and other amenities. All rooms will have technology capabilities and networking.

- J. Birath noted that the new Center will have separate rooms for art and music that will be designed for their specific use. The Media Center will have computer workstations and a resource capacity of approximately 9,000 volumes. The existing Media Center has approximately 6,500 volumes.
- J. Birath reviewed possible activities that can occur in the spaces provided by the OSFC that included Boy/Girl Scout meetings and activities, neighborhood watch programs, after school care, adult education, tutoring, counseling, art and music programs, and many others. All of the new centers will be accessible to children and adults that have a disability.
- L. Duncan reviewed the concept of schools as Community Learning Centers indicating that it is a new concept to Akron and Ohio but is not new to other states. Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, California, and Texas are a few of the states that have successfully incorporated this concept.
- Both J. Beal and L. Duncan stressed the importance of having the community involved in determining how the new Center will be used and that the team will be relying on the input of the community to create the POR. They reviewed the various spaces in the building that can have community activities after school hours. They discussed the various potential existing and new partnerships that may be involved in the new Center. Some examples are mentoring programs, art programs, community meetings, recreation leagues, before and after school care, job training, juvenile intervention, YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, etc. This year there are more than twenty agencies/entities partnering with APS to provide a variety of services.
- D. James responded to questions and concerns from the community about the transition period.
 - Concern was expressed about having the computers children use available to adults after hours and what they may put on the computer. D. James assured the audience that APS has children safety as a primary concern and they have protection software installed on all computers. There was an expression that the software is not enough by a community member.
 - There were concerns about what may be left behind in classrooms that are used by adults after school hours for the children to discover the next day. D. James noted that the users of the rooms will be monitored by someone in charge of the activity.
 - The past principal of the school noted that many of the after school opportunities for community events already take place in most areas of the existing school and they have not had any issues.
 - Questions about building security were brought up. D. James responded that the building will have surveillance cameras, controlled access at entries, and security for after hour community events.
 - The topic of conflicting school and community use after school hours was mentioned. D. James noted that there is a process for scheduling the use of the spaces and that the school would have first priority.
 - The topic of decreasing enrollment was questioned. D. James informed the audience that the Ellet community is anticipated to have a slight population increase in the enrollment forecast and the schools will remain as indicated in the master plan.
 - Concern about having the children bussed to the Central Learning Center and the safety of the Center in its location was strongly expressed. Individuals noted that they are a tight-knit community and sending the children across town would cause separation in the community. D. James noted that the existing Ritzman site will not accommodate a new facility to be constructed and keep the existing building operational while maintaining

student safety. Parents agreed the proximity of a construction site to the existing building is a safety factor. The community asked if there were other sites in the Ellet district that will have swing space available. D. James indicated that Betty Jane will have swing space and he would review the schedule.

- D. James made a call for volunteers to assist with the process. There are two groups that volunteers are required for. The first is the Community Planning Team (CPT) that is composed of parents, neighbors and potential partners to review the proposals and make suggestions. The second is the Roll-Up-the-Sleeves Team (RUS) that is composed of teachers, other staff and a few community members to get into the detail of the new Center and create the proposals to present to the CPT.
- D. James indicated that on Saturday, March 19th there will be a field trip to review Allen Elementary in Canton, an OSFC funded project that has recently completed construction. Buses will depart from the APS Board of Education facility parking lot at 8:00am or individuals can meet at the school.
- D. James challenged everyone to bring one additional member to the next community meeting on April 5th, 6:00pm at the same meeting space.

The preceding is AAG's interpretation of the meeting. Any changes, additions, or clarifications should be forwarded to our office as soon as possible. Unless these changes are furnished within ten (10) working days, it will be understood that all parties are in agreement with the preceding statements.